Enquiry into misconduct by retired judges

*138. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-Chief Justice of India is under corruption panel's scanner, as the Central Vigilance Commission has forwarded a set of complaints, with allegations of misconduct and corruption, to Government for further action;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no mechanism at present in the Constitution or under any law, other than the criminal law, to examine the misconduct of a retired judge;

(c) if so, whether the above such conduct is not falling under a criminal act; and

(d) whether there is any proposal by Government to amend the Constitution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Central Vigilance Commission had forwarded a copy of complaint containing allegations of corruption against a former Chief Justice of India.

(b) There is no mechanism in the Constitution for taking action against any retired Judge of the Supreme Court/High Court.

(c) The complaint is being looked into by the concerned agencies.

(d) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

Investment plan of Cairn India Ltd.

*139. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of ONGC has approved the revised investment plan of Cairn India Ltd. for Rajasthan Oil fields;

(b) if so, the details of the revised and pre-revised investment plans of that company;

(c) what are the reasons for effecting an increase of more than Rs. 3,000 crores in the revised plan by the company; and

(d) how the project is viable for ONGC when it has got only 30 percent stake and has to pay royalty to the Rajasthan Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) While Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Board has not approved the investment plan of Cairn India Pvt. Ltd., it has approved its 30% share of revised Field Development Plan (FDP) at an estimated capital expenditure of US$ 729.43 million in respect of block RJ-ON-90/1. Total capital expenditure estimated in the FDP is US$ 2431 million.

The main reasons for an increase in cost in revised plan are as under:

i) Increase in plateau production rate from 96,000 barrel of oil per day (BOPD) to 125,000 BOPD.

ii) Change in production and processing from individual gathering stations to a central processing hub.

iii) Updated cost estimates.

iv) Increase in Service Tax.

The projected crude oil production from block RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan is 2.6 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) in 2009-10 and 6.8 MMT in 2010-11 with peak production of 8.9 MMTPA. With this incremental production from Rajasthan, crude oil production of the country is likely to increase by 7.8% in 2009-10 and 20.3% in 2010-11. Under the existing set of fiscal terms and conditions, ONGC has negative net present value for its investment in the revised FDP.

Establishing Forest Academy

*140. SHRI P. RAJEEVE:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a comprehensive policy for training the forest personnel in latest scientific and technological developments in the field of forestry;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any project proposals from States for setting up of forest academies for this purpose;

(c) whether the Kerala Government had made any proposal for establishing forest academy; and

(d) if so, whether funds have been allocated in this regard to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, including a proposal received from State of Kerala.

(d) There is no scheme in the Ministry of Environment & Forests to fund proposals regarding establishing forest academies in the States/UTs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Opening of coal extraction

†866. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are opening up coal extraction sector for the private sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi